

REMARKS

Applicant has reviewed the Office Action of 03 October 2002 and the Advisory Action of 17 December 2002, and further appreciates the phone conversation of 08 January 2003 with the Examiner at which time the invention relative to the references of record were discussed. While no agreement was reached as to the patentability of the claims, the Examiner provided insight into how the references were being construed and provided some suggestions as to where patentable subject matter might lie within the disclosure.

Applicant herein cancels the original claims of the application and files the present RCE with new claims directed to the present invention in a more focused manner, guided in part by the conversation with the Examiner on 08 January 2003. The present invention is directed to a technique by which a gateway in a telecommunications network can be sent audio packages containing announcements that are played to end users of the telecommunications network. This distribution of announcements reduces network traffic and simplifies processing for the telecommunications network. To achieve this goal, a system has a centralized database in which the announcements are stored as audio segments. An audio package builder/export tool accesses the database and constructs an audio package from a subset of the audio segments in the database. The audio segments are coupled with an index file within the audio package. The index file indicates where in the audio package a particular audio segment may be located. Then the audio package is exported to at least one gateway. A single tool constructs the audio package and performs the exporting.

In contrast, the two Gustman references are directed to a central repository of multimedia files, which may be accessed from a remote location. No audio package is constructed, nor is a package with an audio segment and an index file sent to the gateways. Rather, the catalog and audio files of the Gustman references remain on the central server.

Applicant requests claim examination and allowance at the Examiner's earliest convenience.

Respectfully submitted,

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